



DARK DAYS

1



Snyder
Tynion IV
Lee
Hubert
Romita Jr.
Williams
Janson
Miki
Sinclair

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DARK DAYS

What is the Dark Multiverse?

THE HORROR

The prelude to the epic event

METAL

SCOTT SNYDER
JAMES TYNION IV
ANDY KUBERT
JIM LEE
JOHN ROMITA JR.

JUNE 2017





DARK DAYS

1

THE HUNTER



Andy
Hibberd
BA

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DARK DAYS

1

THE FALLEN



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There is a feeling you get at the beginning of an adventure...



...you feel it in your veins, the channels, your heart starts pounding...



...beating only for discovery...

My name is Carter Hall and this is my final journal.

I have lived many lives. But I still remember that night like it was yesterday.

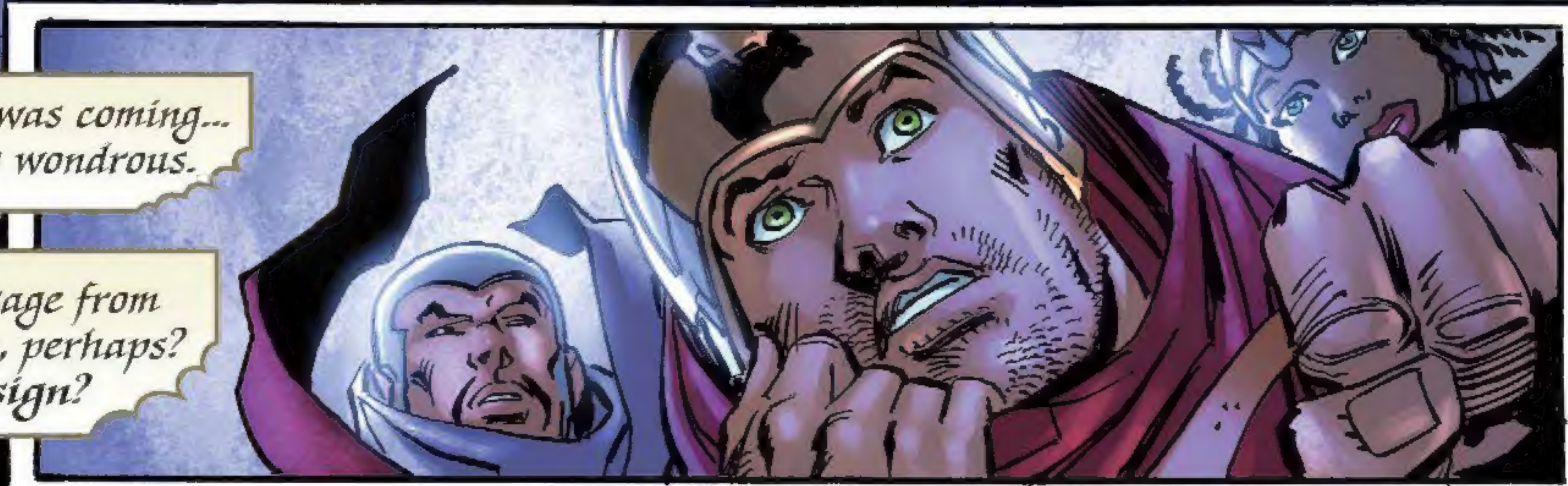
A young boy had spied something in the sky, a light, and we rode out together, my princess, my advisor, our guards, all to see what it was.



We could feel it in the air, the start of something big.

Something was coming... something wondrous.

A message from the gods, perhaps? A sign?



But it was no sign.



*It was a clue to the greatest mystery
in the history of mankind.*



And it was written in metal.

NOW.
THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE.

THE **TREMORS** STARTED FORTY MINUTES AGO AND HAVE ONLY GROWN **WORSE...** I DON'T KNOW IF THE REST OF THE RESEARCH TEAM MADE IT OUT IN TIME. IT'S TOO LATE FOR ME. THE LAVA WILL ENGULF THE BASE IN MINUTES.

I STAYED TO PROTECT WHAT WE'VE JUST LEARNED. I KEEP READING AND REREADING THE DATA, HOPING IT COMES TOGETHER. HOPING WHAT I THOUGHT I SAW WASN'T TRUE.

PEOPLE NEED TO KNOW. PEOPLE NEED TO UNDERSTAND.

THERE'S SOMETHING... THERE'S SOMETHING **WRONG** WITH THE EARTH'S CORE.

R-RECORD MESSAGE.

THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE **METAL...**

AHH!





DR. MADISON...

THE ONLY
WAY OUT IS
THROUGH THE
VOLCANO.

GET IN.

B-BATMAN?



THE OTHERS?

MY FRIENDS ARE PULLING THEM TO SHORE NOW. NO CASUALTIES.

THANK YOU, AQUAMAN.

BATMAN. THIS WAS A WAYNE ENTERPRISES BLACK SITE. AN OFF-THE-BOOKS DRILLING OPERATION IN MY DOMAIN.

YOU WEREN'T JUST KEEPING THIS PLACE HIDDEN FROM THE **SURFACE** WORLD. YOU WERE KEEPING IT HIDDEN FROM **ATLANTIS**. FROM ME.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR, BRUCE?

[Panel showing Batman looking down at the man on the sand]

WITH WHAT I KNOW IS LOCKED UNDERNEATH ATLANTIS...IS THAT REALLY A QUESTION YOU WANT TO ASK ME?

WHAT WE NEED TO BE ASKING IS SIMPLER THAN THAT, ARTHUR...

WHAT ARE **THEY** HIDING?

HE CAN LOOK ALL HE WANTS, BUT HE **WON'T** FIND OUT. **LADY BLACKHAWK** TO CONTROL. BRING ME HOME.



MOGO.
HOME OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS.

HAL JORDAN OF EARTH.
I AM TEMPORARILY PULLING
YOU FROM ACTIVE DUTY. I HAVE A
PRIVATE MISSION FOR YOU OF
PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE.

THIS MISSION *MUST*
REMAIN SECRET FROM YOUR FELLOW
LANTERNS. *PARTICULARLY* YOUR
FELLOW EARTH MEN.



THIS ISN'T
GOING TO BE ONE OF
THOSE *HAPPY* SECRET
MISSIONS, IS IT,
GANTHET?



THERE ARE
RUMBLINGS IN EVERY
CORNER OF THIS *UNIVERSE*.
WHISPERS OF A STIRRING
IN THE DARK. A TERRIBLE
TRUTH IS COMING TO
LIGHT ON YOUR HOME
PLANET.

AND WE
MUST NOT
LET IT.

WAIT, *THESE*
ARE THE
COORDINATES?
THIS IS THE
SOURCE
OF THE
THREAT?



IS THERE A
PROBLEM, HAL
JORDAN?

WAYNE-MANDR.
GOTHAM CITY.

NO. NO
PROBLEM AT
ALL.



THE BATCAVE.

THERE'S MORE
SPOOKY CRAP IN
THIS PLACE EVERY
TIME I VISIT...

ALL RIGHT,
LET'S FIND
WHAT'S GOT
GANTHET'S ROBES
UP IN A BUNCH
AND GET THE
HELL OUT
OF THIS
MAUSOLEUM.

I
DON'T
THINK
SO.

SORRY, GREEN
LANTERN. I'M ON
STRICT ORDERS
FROM BATMAN.

NOBODY
IS ALLOWED IN
THE CAVE RIGHT
NOW. NOT EVEN
FAMILY.



YEAH, THAT'S NOT SUSPICIOUS AT ALL.

THOUGHT I READ THAT LITTLE RING OF YOURS DIDN'T WORK ON YELLOW...

IT DOES IF YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.

THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.



GLAD TO SEE BATMAN'S STILL RECRUITING *TEENAGERS*. YOU'RE NEW, AREN'T YOU? WHAT'S YOUR NAME? YELLOW ROBIN? CANARY? *BIG BIRD*?

ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW IS THAT **BATMAN** LEFT ME HERE WITH A **JOB** TO DO.

AND THAT IF YOU DON'T GET OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE GOING TO **REGRET IT**.

AW, YOU'RE DOING THE VOICE AND **EVERYTHING**.

SERIOUSLY, KID. WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

DUKE THOMAS. I DON'T HAVE A CODE NAME YET.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SCANNING FOR SOMETHING...



THERE.



H-HEY!

COME BACK HERE!



DIE...DIE...
DIE...

HER NAME
IS ELAINE
THOMAS.



THE CAMPUS.
ONE MILE BENEATH PHILADELPHIA.

SHE SEEMS
CHARMING.

SHE WAS, ONCE.
BEFORE THE JOKER
TOXINS RIPPED HER MIND
APART. BEFORE HER SON,
DUKE, HAD HER MOVED
INTO WAYNE
MANOR.



I MADE
HER THE **OFFER**,
MANY YEARS
AGO.

THE OFFER
TO JOIN A SECRET
BATTLE THAT
STRETCHED BACK
TO THE DAWN
OF TIME.

AN OFFER
TO LIVE
FOREVER.

SHE DIDN'T
TAKE YOU UP
ON IT, I'M
GUESSIN'.

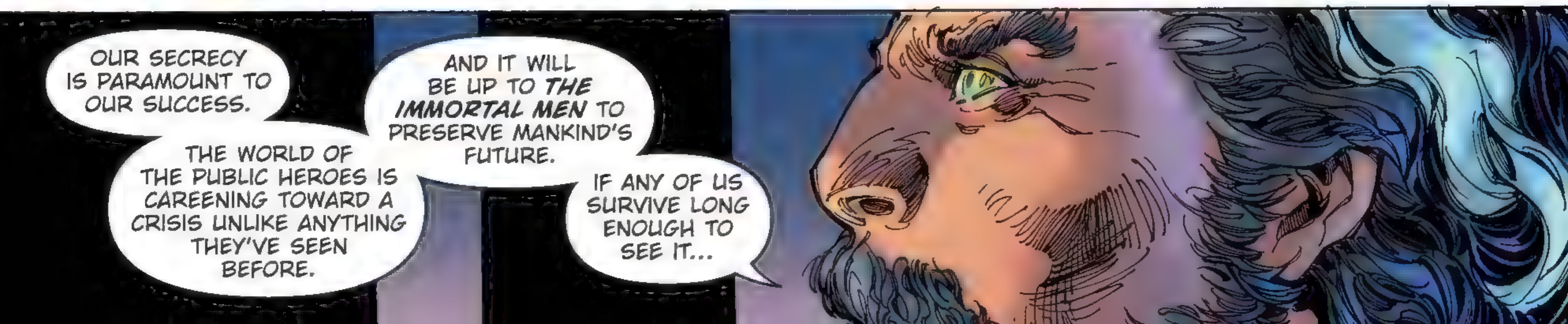


SO, WHY IS THE
GREAT AND POWERFUL
IMMORTAL MAN
WALKING DOWN
MEMORY LANE?

MRS. THOMAS...
REACTIVATED, BRIEFLY,
A FEW WEEKS AGO.

I'VE BEEN
MONITORING TO
MAKE SURE SHE HASN'T
REVEALED ANYTHING SHE
SHOULDN'T TO ANYONE
SHE SHOULDN'T.

BUT SHE
REMAINS INCAPABLE
OF DIVULGING OUR
SECRETS, NO MATTER
HOW HARD THE BATMAN
PRIES. WE NEEDN'T
WORRY ABOUT
HER.




OUR SECRECY
IS PARAMOUNT TO
OUR SUCCESS.

THE WORLD OF
THE PUBLIC HEROES IS
CAREENING TOWARD A
CRISIS UNLIKE ANYTHING
THEY'VE SEEN
BEFORE.

AND IT WILL
BE UP TO **THE
IMMORTAL MEN** TO
PRESERVE MANKIND'S
FUTURE.

IF ANY OF US
SURVIVE LONG
ENOUGH TO
SEE IT...



From that night on, that fateful night in the Egyptian desert, my story is well known.

The ship was made of a mysterious substance called Nth metal. It gave me, my wife, and our mortal enemy, Hath-Set, eternal life, sending us into a cycle of reincarnation-- Shiera and I fighting on the side of good, Hath-Set on that of evil.

We were born hundreds, even thousands of times over, cast against each other.

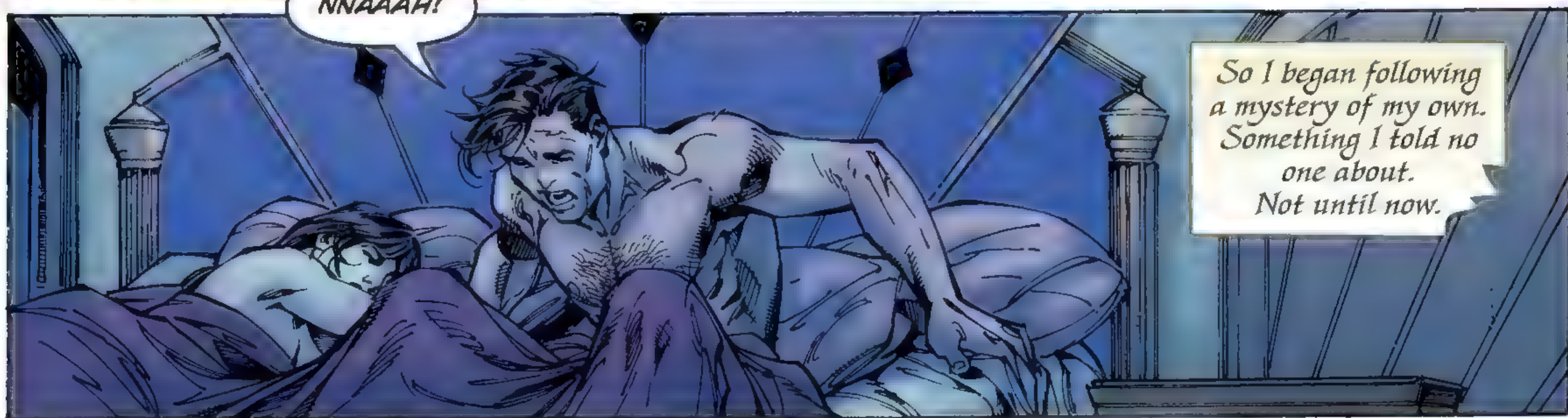
But the truth is, sometimes, in those dark moments, those moments in between lives, before being born again, I would catch glimpses...

...glimpses of something bigger, a mystery behind our lives, our story.

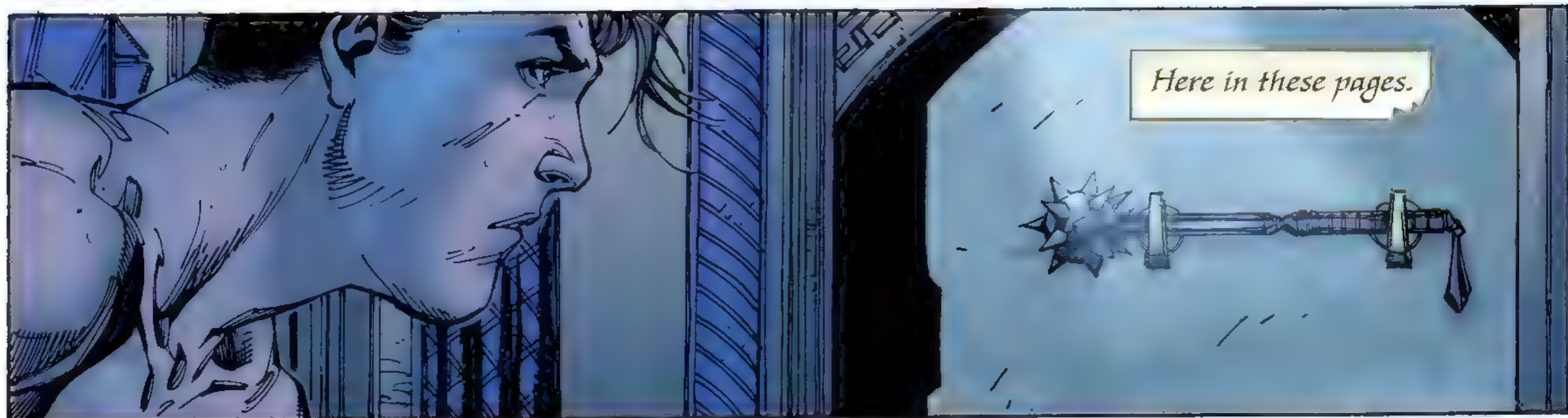
Something terrifying. Something on a scale I'd never seen before. A dream... no, not a dream. A **nightmare**, echoing through the metal.



NNAAAH!



So I began following a mystery of my own. Something I told no one about. Not until now.



Here in these pages.

A mystery that would take me places I never dreamed.

LUNAR BATCAVE: THE MOON.

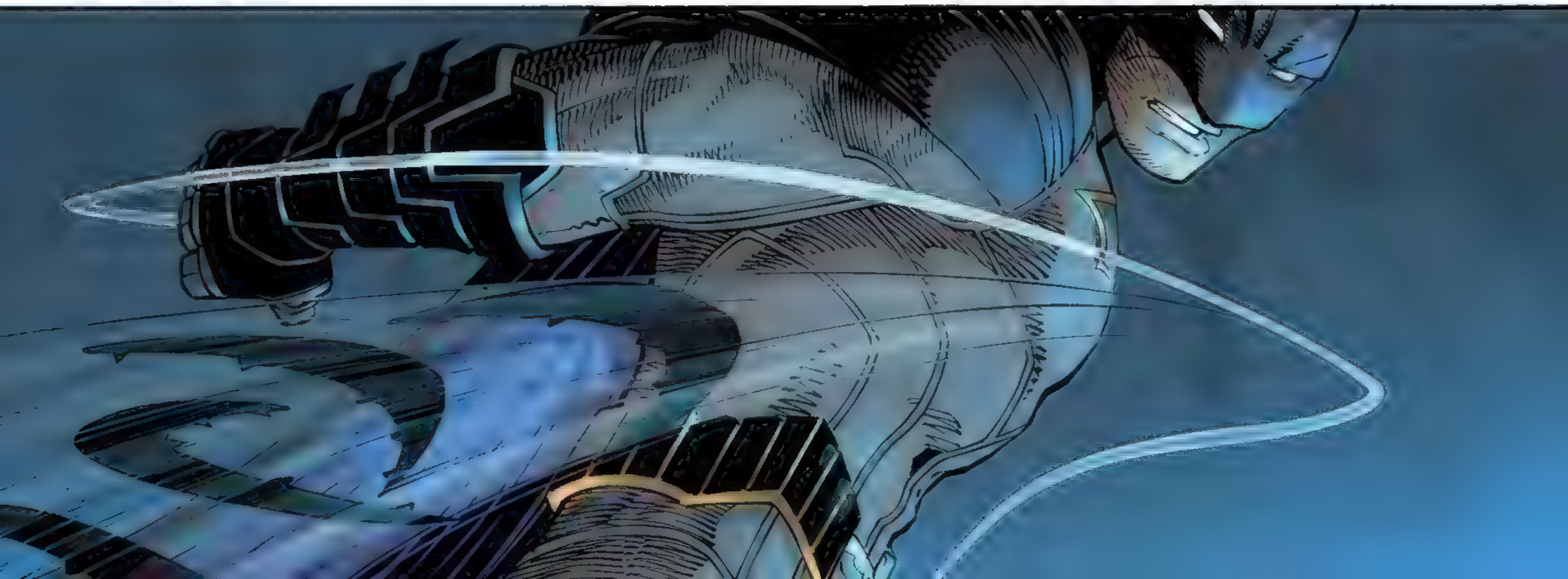
COMPUTER.

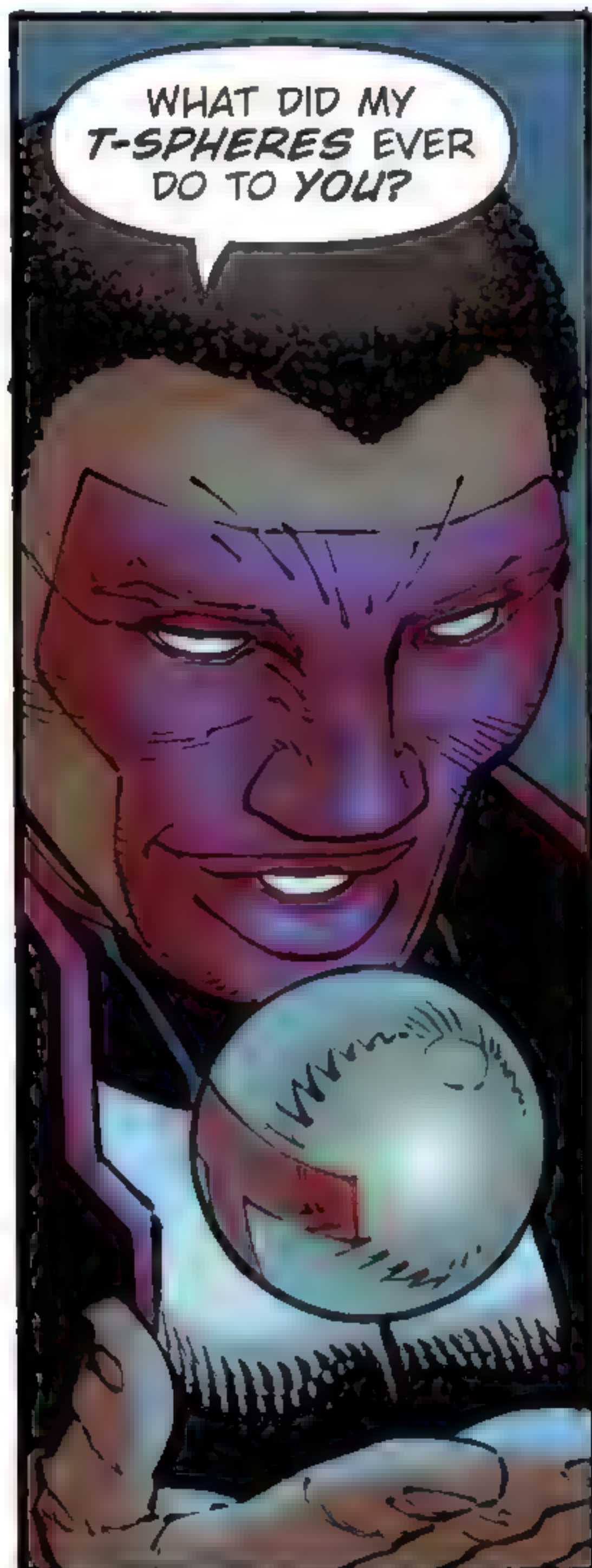
SEND A MESSAGE TO LUCIUS.

BLACK SITE 14 IS **DOWN**. I WANT SITE 15 UP AND RUNNING WITHIN THE WEEK. KEEP THIS ONE AWAY FROM THE OCEANS.

CREATE UPLINK TO THE **SHADOW DRIVE**. ADDING NEW GEOLOGICAL DATA FOR COMPARISONS.

SO, IT WAS AS BAD AS YOU THOUGHT IT WOULD BE?





WHAT DID MY
T-SPHERES EVER
DO TO YOU?

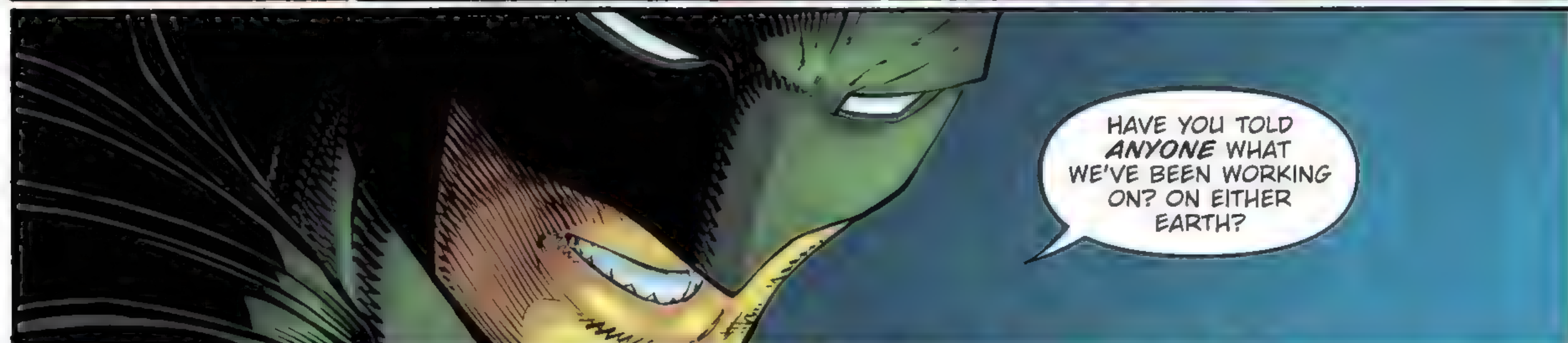


THROW OFF THE
CALIBRATION OF
MY COMPUTERS. I
DIDN'T REALIZE
YOU WERE BACK
IN *OUR* UNIVERSE,
MICHAEL.

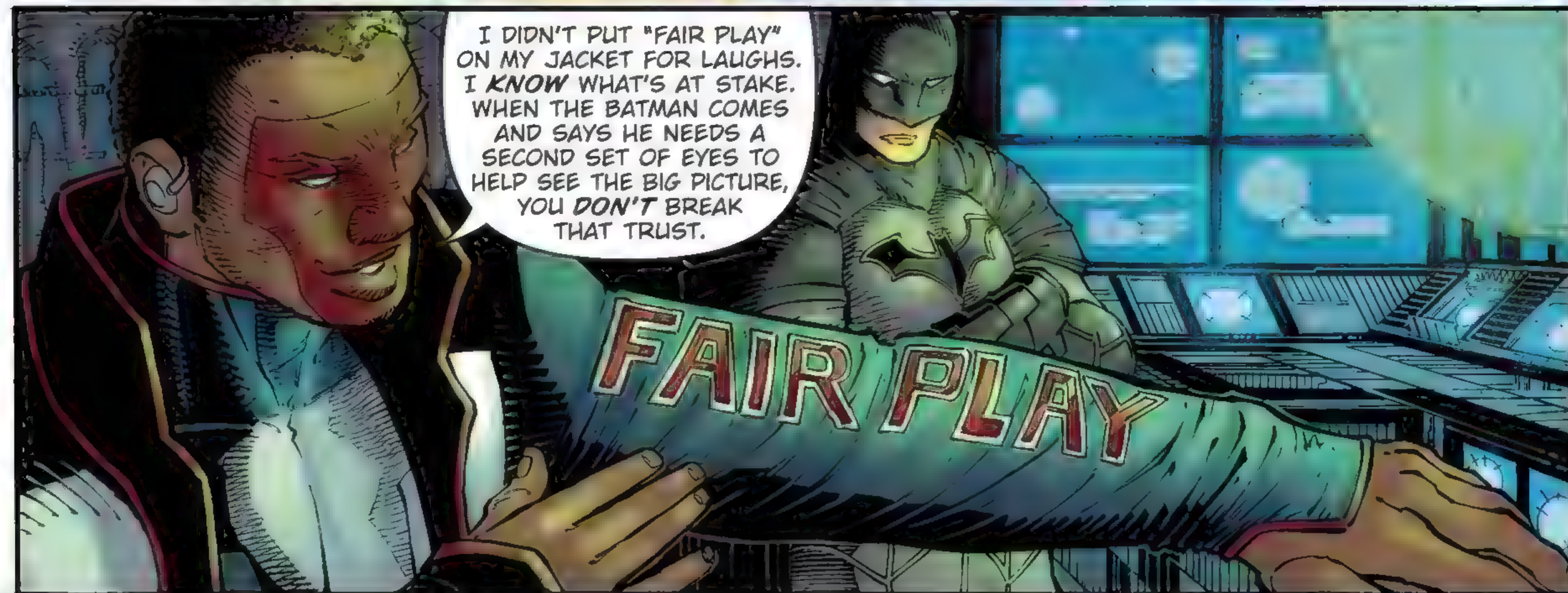
THIS
MYSTERY OF
YOURS HAS MADE
ME A LITTLE QUEASY
ABOUT CROSSING
BACK AND FORTH.
IT SEEMED TIME I
CAME HOME FOR
GOOD.



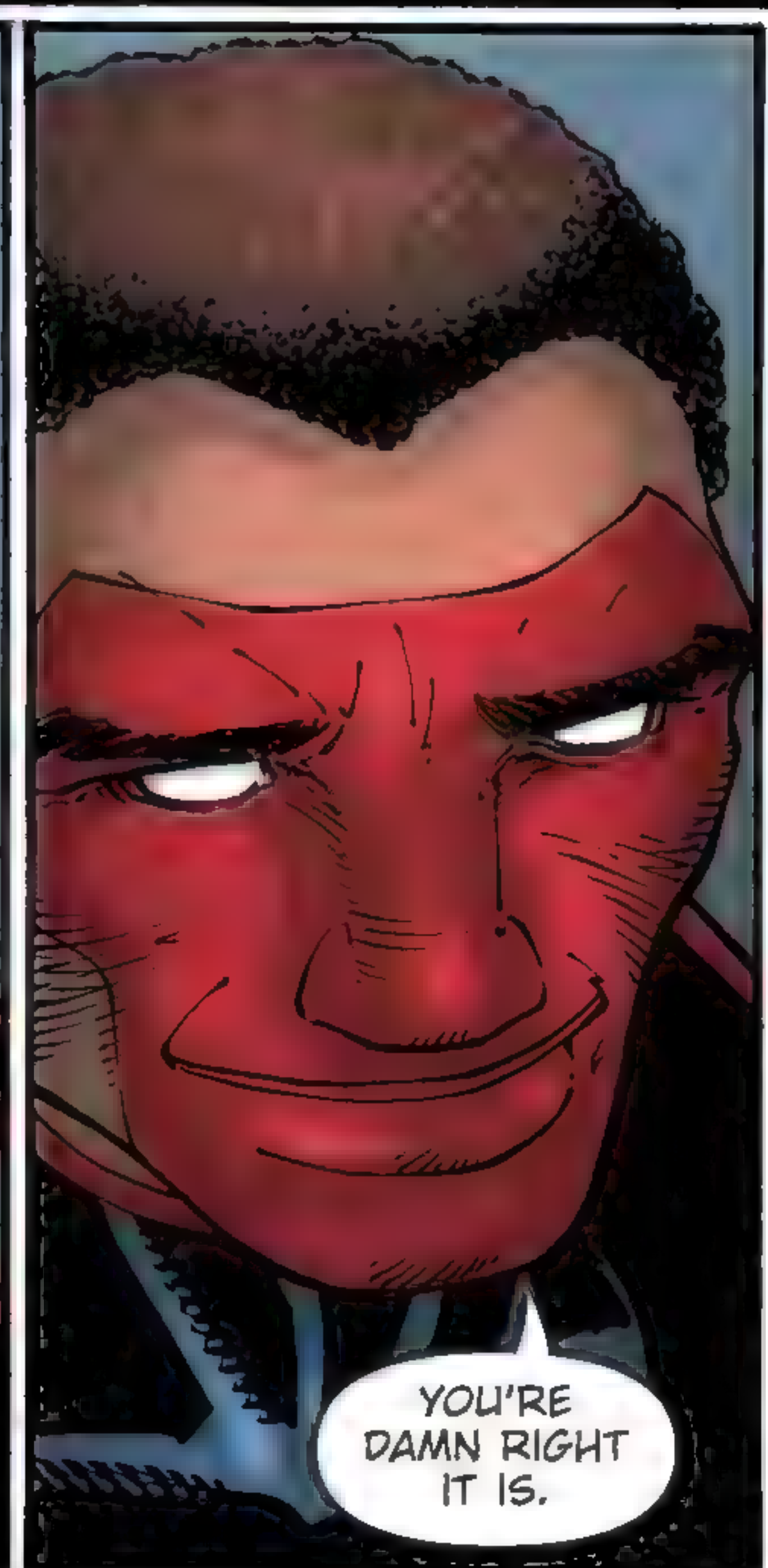
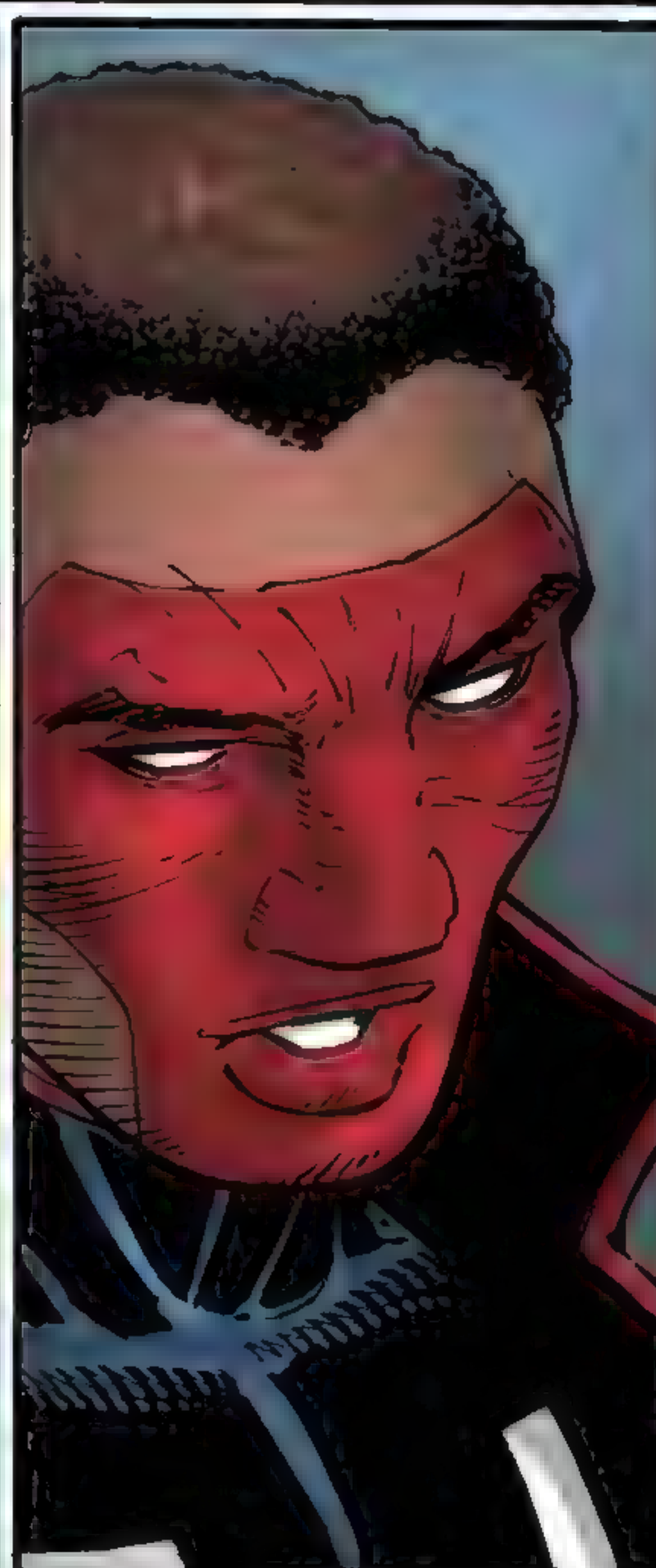
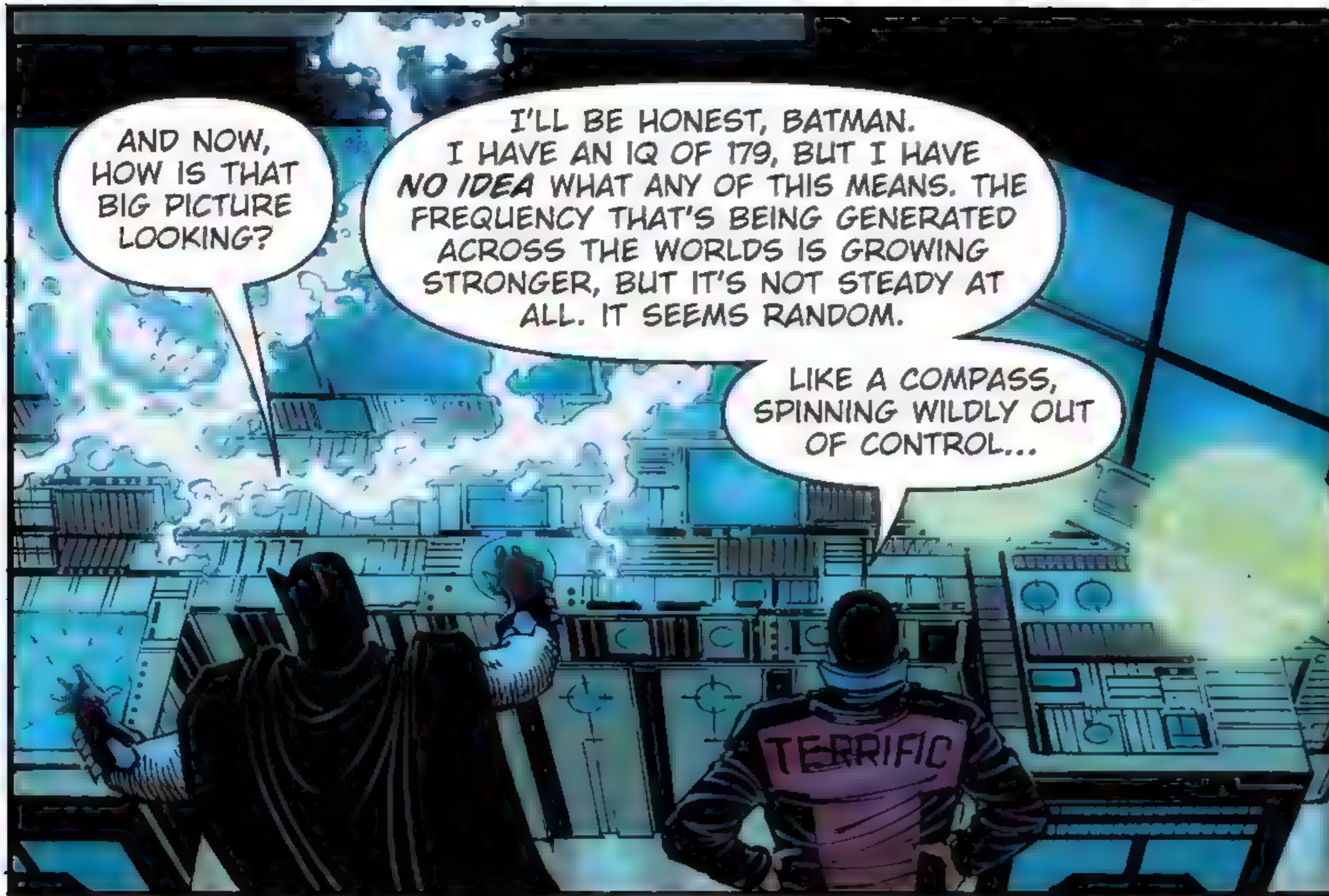
BUT
MR. TERRIFIC
KEEPS HIS
PROMISES. HERE'S
ALL THE DATA I
COULD GATHER
FROM THE *OTHER*
WORLD.

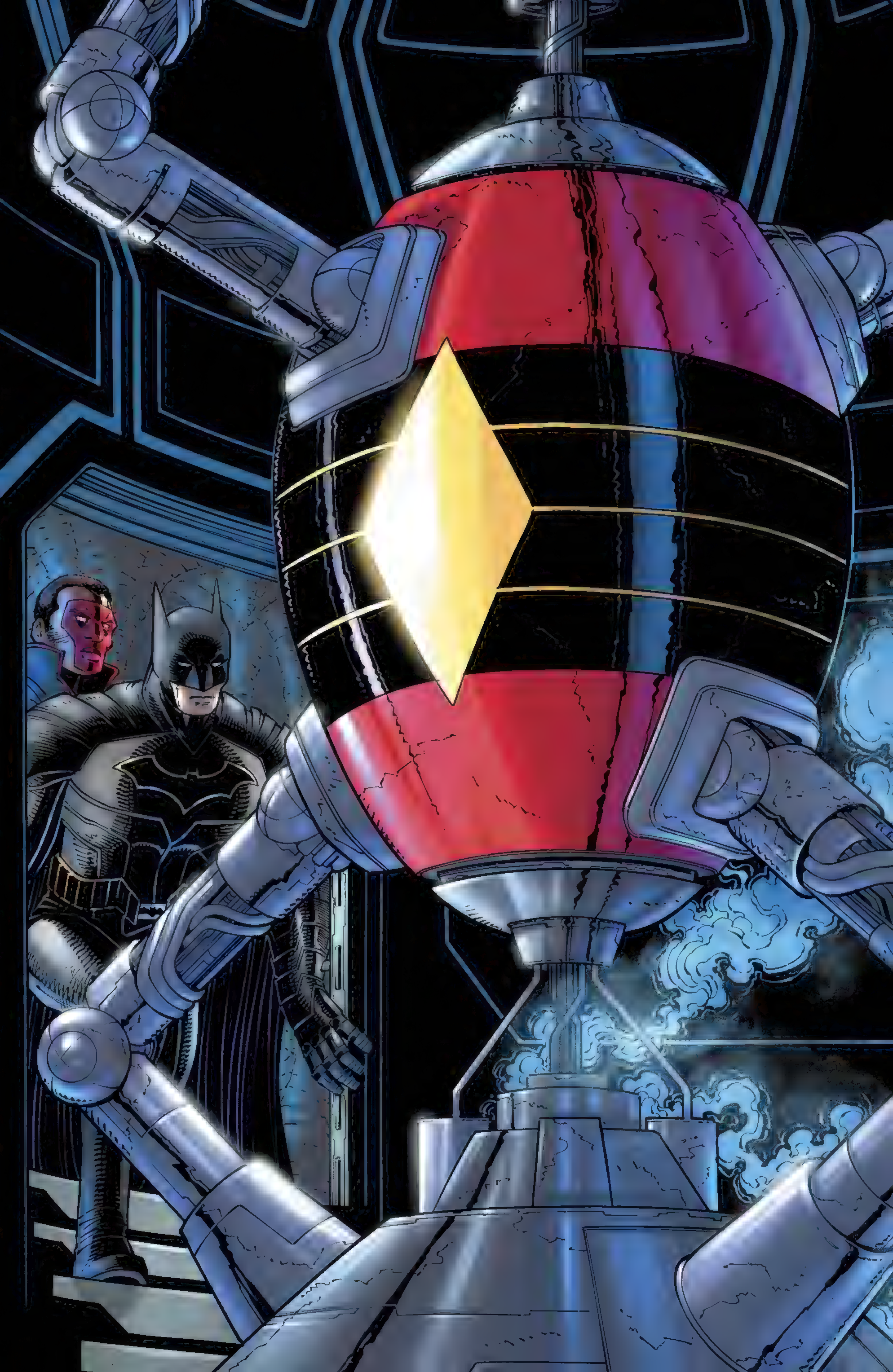


HAVE YOU TOLD
ANYONE WHAT
WE'VE BEEN WORKING
ON? ON EITHER
EARTH?



I DIDN'T PUT "FAIR PLAY"
ON MY JACKET FOR LAUGHS.
I *KNOW* WHAT'S AT STAKE.
WHEN THE BATMAN COMES
AND SAYS HE NEEDS A
SECOND SET OF EYES TO
HELP SEE THE BIG PICTURE,
YOU *DON'T* BREAK
THAT TRUST.





THE BATCAVE.

SERIOUSLY.
ONLY BATMAN WOULD
HAVE A SECRET CAVE
INSIDE HIS SECRET
CAVE.

I TOLD YOU,
YOU'RE NOT
SUPPOSED TO
BE HERE.

WHAT
IS THIS
PLACE?

OH, I CAN
CLEAR THAT UP
FOR YOU...

DON'T LOOK
AT ME! I DIDN'T
SAY ANYTHING!

RING,
HOW MANY LIFE
SIGNATURES
AHEAD...?

...I
CANNOT COMPLY
WITH THAT
REQUEST...

THIS
DOESN'T
MAKE ANY
SENSE...

IT
WOULDN'T,
WOULD IT?
A MYSTERY
NEVER DOES
AT FIRST...

MYSTERY?

OH YES, OUR
FRIEND WITH THE
POINTY EARS HAS
BEEN FOLLOWING
IT FOR YEARS
NOW.

ALFRED, IS
THAT YOU?



IT ALL STARTED WITH A **TOOTH**. A METAL TOOTH THAT COULD BRING THE DEAD BACK TO LIFE. THE BEDROCK OF AN **ORGANIZATION** THAT STRETCHED BACK CENTURIES.

THE **COURT OF OWLS**. RIGHT, DICK? I MEAN, IF YOU'RE NOT ALFRED, YOU HAVE TO BE--



YOU SEE, A METAL SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO **DO** WHAT THIS "**ELECTRUM**" COULD DO. NO COMPOUND OF GOLD AND SILVER COULD MAKE THE DEAD TALONS WALK AGAIN...AND SO BATMAN HAD HIS **THREAD**, AND HE PULLED...



AND HE **EXTRACTED** SOMETHING FROM THE METAL...A STRANGE SUBSTANCE HE HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE. A METAL THAT SCIENCE **COULDN'T** EXPLAIN.



AH...

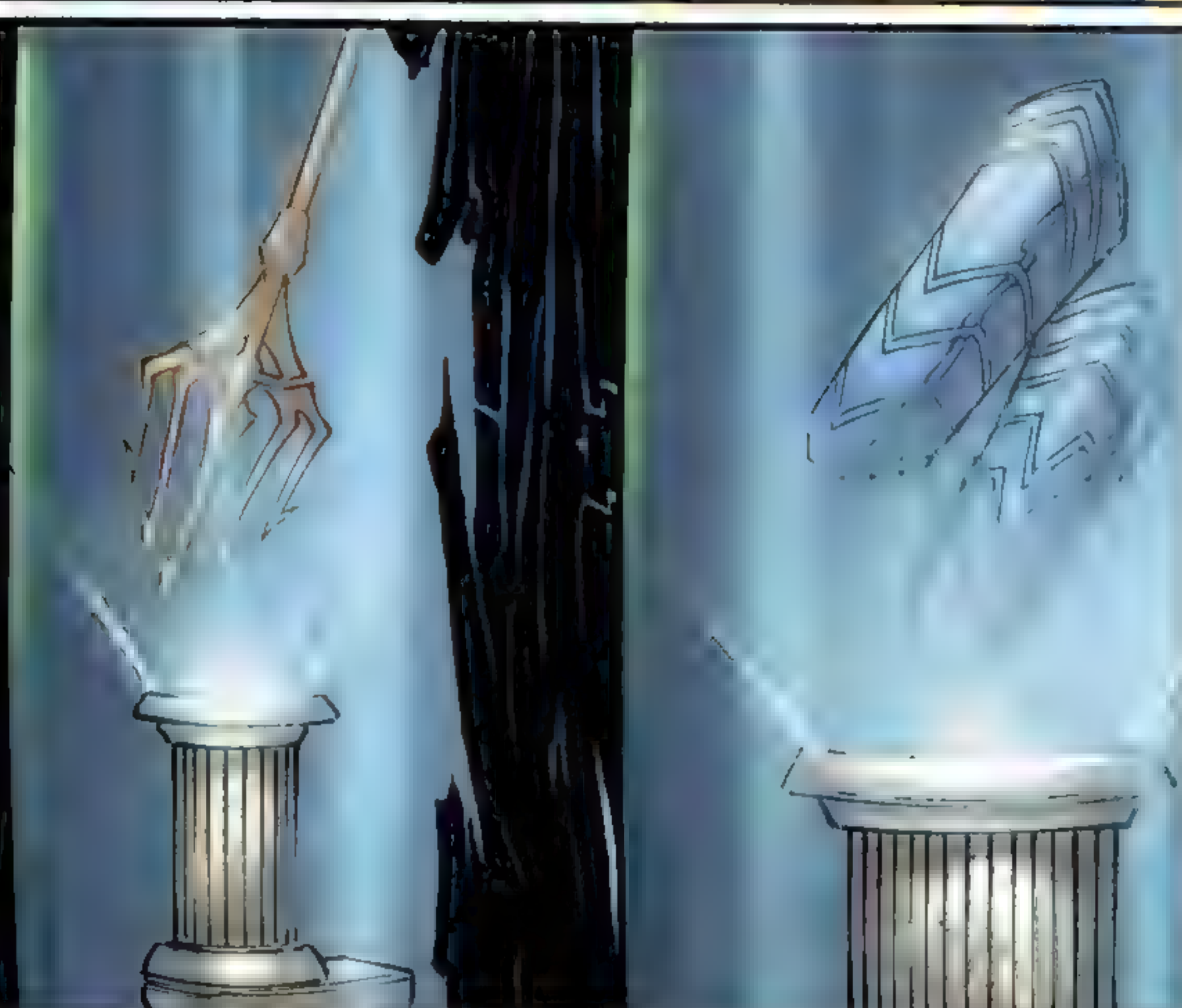
WHAT'S WRONG?

MY RING...IT'S BURNING...



OH, YOU CAN **FEEL** IT, CAN'T YOU? THE POWER. SO COULD HE. AND IT **CONSUMED** HIM. WHAT WAS THIS STRANGE METAL? WHAT WAS ITS CONNECTION TO THE OWLS?

WHY DID IT SHARE AN ENERGY SIGNATURE WITH SO MANY OF THE MOST POWERFUL ARTIFACTS ON THE PLANET?



AND SO HE FORMED THE **FIRST** TEAM. THE FIRST OF MANY TASKED WITH INVESTIGATING ALL OF THIS.

A TEAM THAT COULD MOVE **OUTSIDE** BATMAN'S USUAL REALM OF INFLUENCE.



TOGETHER THESE **OUTSIDERS** WOULD OPERATE WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE JUSTICE LEAGUE, THE GOVERNMENT OR EVEN HIS **PRECIOUS** BAT-FAMILY, UNCOVERING MORE HIDDEN TRUTHS ABOUT THE METALS...

WAIT A SECOND... BATMAN HAS A **BLACK-OPS** TEAM?

SOMETHING'S REALLY WRONG IN HERE. I'VE BEEN TO EVERY CORNER OF THE UNIVERSE, AND MY RING'S NEVER DONE THIS BEFORE.

WE SHOULD FALL BACK.



OH, NO NO NO... YOU CAN'T DO THAT...

I'VE BEEN DYING FOR THE CHANCE TO SEE YOU BOTH FACE TO FACE. WE'RE ALL CONNECTED, YOU SEE. I WAS HOPING SOMEONE WOULD COME MEDDLING.

IT'S BEEN SO LONELY DOWN HERE.



LOOK, I'M **DONE** KIDDING AROUND. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT **BATMAN**. YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW HE HAS **SECRETS**? IF HE'S BEEN PUTTING TOGETHER SOME KIND OF MYSTERY FOR YEARS AND HE HASN'T TOLD ME, HE HAS A **REASON**.

OH, YOU CAN'T TURN BACK NOW...

THE **NEXT** BIT'S THE **BEST** PART.

IT ALL HAS TO DO WITH A LIQUID METAL, SHIMMERING AND GREEN. A METAL THAT CHANGED EVERYTHING.

THEY CALLED IT **DIONESIUM**.

BUT HE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO FOUND IT, WAS HE?

NO.



WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON IN HERE? WHO ARE YOU?

OH, I THINK HE'S STARTING TO PUT THE PIECES TOGETHER.

JUST LIKE I DID.



YOU SEE, HE WAS DRAGGED INTO THIS WORLD FOR A **REASON**. THE SAME REASON I'M SURE YOUR CELESTIAL BOSSES SENT YOU DIGGING FOR ANSWERS.

SHOW YOURSELF.

BECAUSE **BATMAN** IS GETTING CLOSER TO THE **TRUTH**.



SYSTEMS CANNOT COMPLY
SYSTEMS ANOMALY
DETECTED
SYSTEMS

AAAAHHHHHHH!



MY ARM'S ON FIRE. LET'S GO BACK TO THE CAVE. I CAN BRING IN THE LEAGUE...SOMETHING'S **VERY** WRONG HERE.

NO.
WE KEEP GOING.



OH, MR. GREEN LANTERN. ARE YOU **AFRAID**?

I DON'T **GET** AFRAID.



OH, I THINK YOU **DO**...I THINK WE ALL **DO**...IT'S **ALL** IN THAT MOMENT OF DISCOVERY...

WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO LEARN SOMETHING YOU WILL **NEVER** BE ABLE TO UNLEARN.

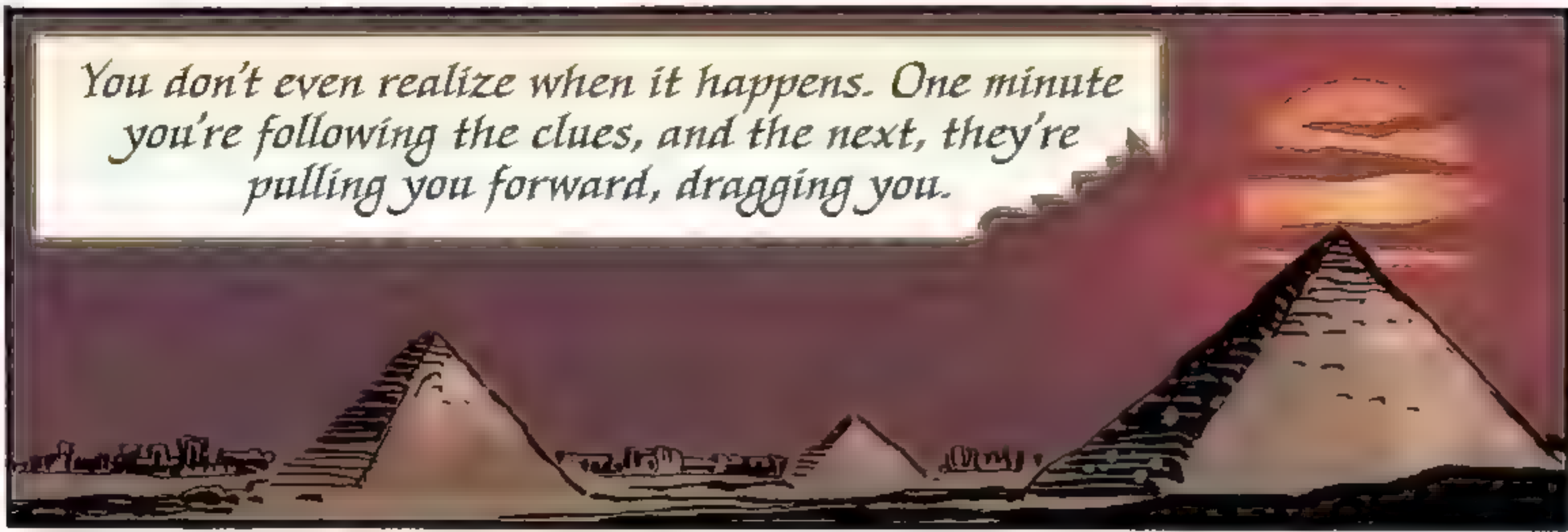


SOMETHING THAT PUTS ALL THE PIECES TOGETHER, AND YOU FINALLY SEE THE **TRUTH**, AND THE WORLD CHANGES.

AND YOU **KNOW** IT'LL NEVER GO BACK THE WAY IT WAS BEFORE.

BUT IF YOU'RE SO **VERY BRAVE**, THEN JUST OPEN THE **DOOR**.

You don't even realize when it happens. One minute you're following the clues, and the next, they're pulling you forward, dragging you.



For years I studied Nth metal alone, trying to unlock the secret of its abilities. What I came to understand was that it was conducting energy...powerful energy from somewhere beyond my understanding.

I dug deeper. Followed every clue I could find...



Until one day I got a glimpse.



A glimpse of a story that began with the first men to walk the Earth. Three tribes...



Or rather...four.





*And
something
else...*

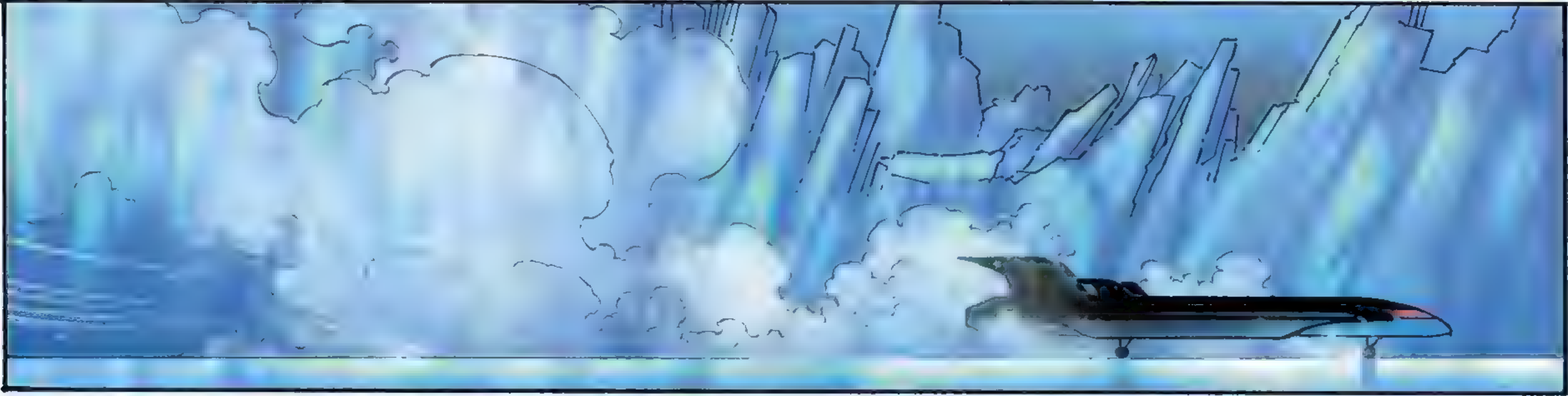
*I was part of something
bigger, something
beyond my control.*

*And I would do
everything in my power
to uncover what had
been taken from me.
The secret that
stretched back to the
dawn of my species.*

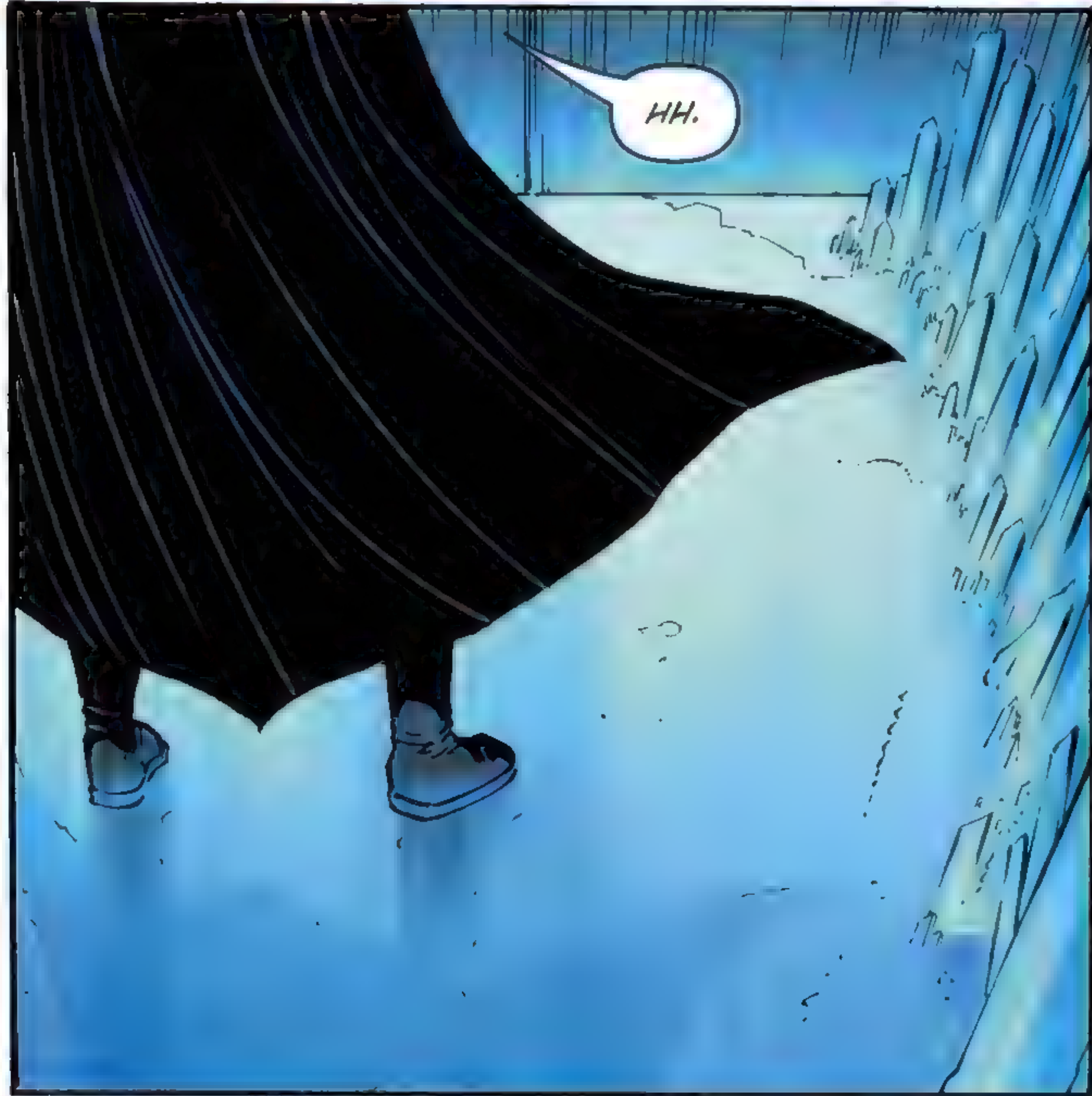
*No matter what
the cost.*



**THE ARCTIC
CIRCLE.**



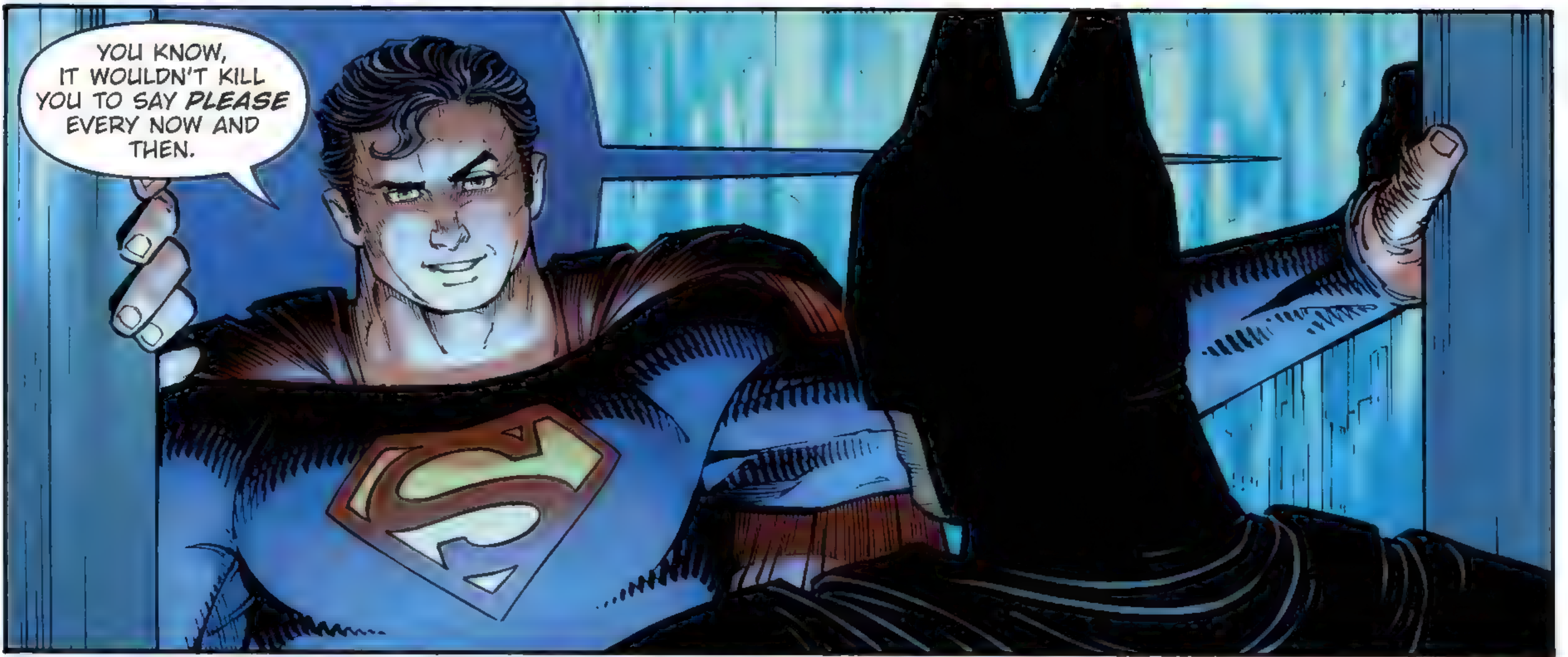
**THE FORTRESS
OF SOLITUDE.**

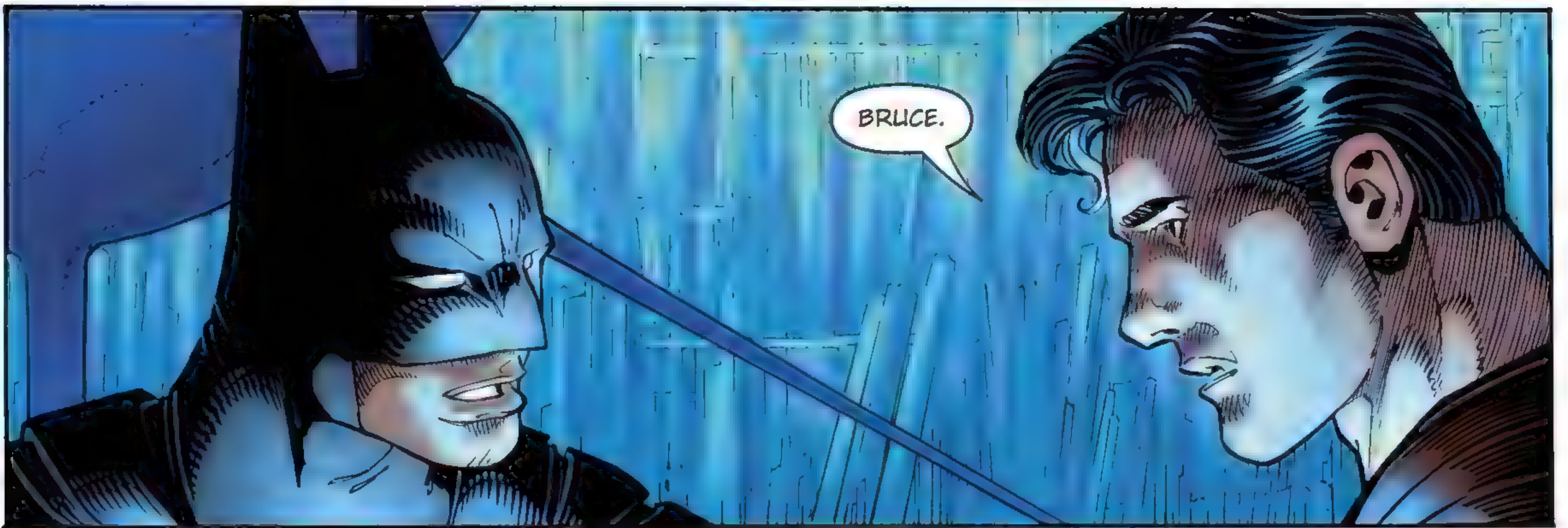


HH.



CLARK. I
KNOW YOU'RE
IN THERE. LET
ME IN.





BRUCE.



THERE'S A ROOM YOU GAVE ME, YEARS AGO, DEEP UNDER THE FORTRESS. I ASKED YOU NEVER TO LOOK AT WHAT I PUT INSIDE.

AND I NEVER HAVE. NOT ONCE.

I TOLD YOU THAT THE DAY WOULD COME WHEN I WOULD NEED TO OPEN THAT DOOR. AND THAT I WOULD HAVE TO WALK THROUGH IT ALONE.



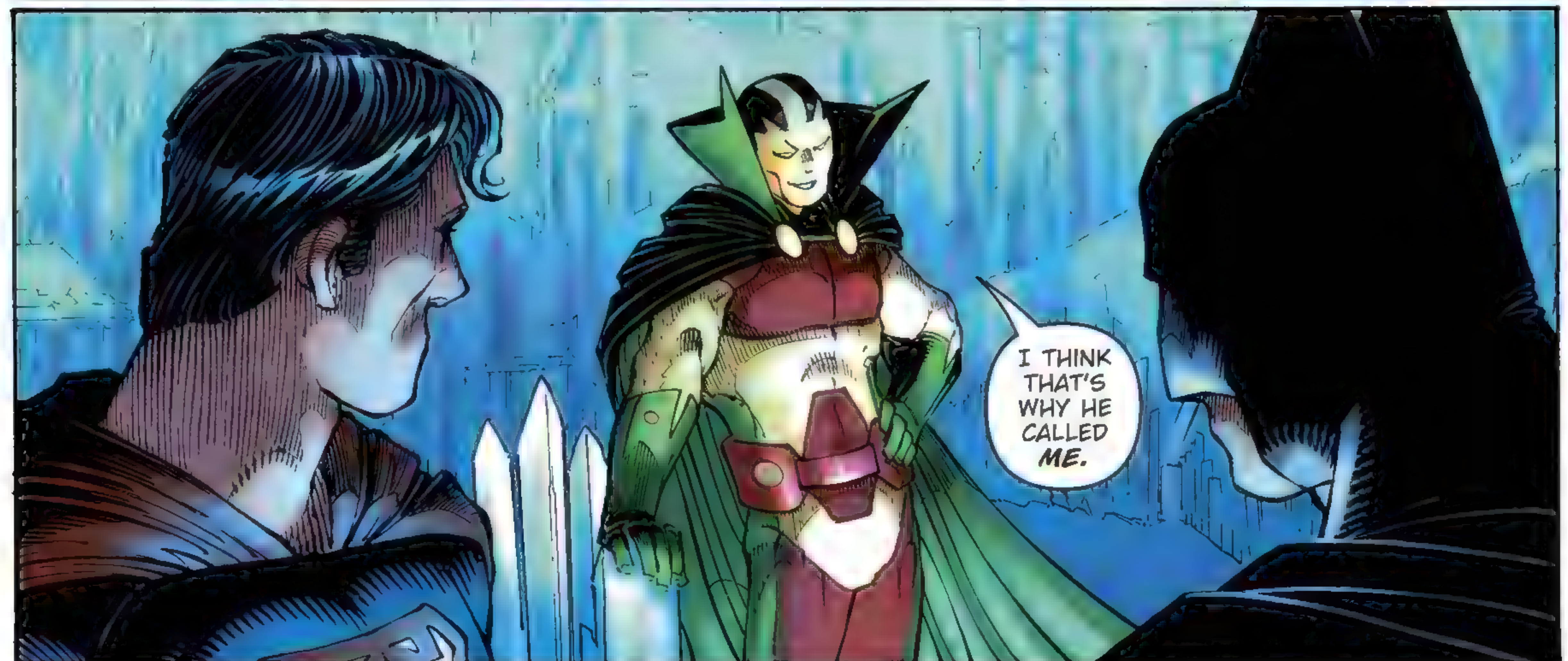
BRUCE...IF THIS IS TOO BIG FOR YOU, I'M RIGHT HERE. YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?

I DO. THANK YOU, I DO.

IT WON'T BE LONG NOW. I'M NOT TRYING TO KEEP PEOPLE AWAY THIS TIME. I *SWEAR* THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M DOING. I JUST NEED TO *UNDERSTAND* WHAT I'M LOOKING AT FIRST.



I'VE SEEN THAT DOOR, BRUCE. THERE'S NOTHING FROM THIS WORLD THAT COULD OPEN IT.



I THINK THAT'S WHY HE CALLED ME.



YOU BUILT A **SECRET ROOM** AT THE **TOP** OF THE WORLD WITH **ONE** DOOR AND A LOCK THAT NO HUMAN COULD **EVER** UNLOCK.

WHAT DID YOU DO TO THE **KEY**?



I SHOT IT INTO THE SUN.

THAT'S A JOKE, RIGHT?

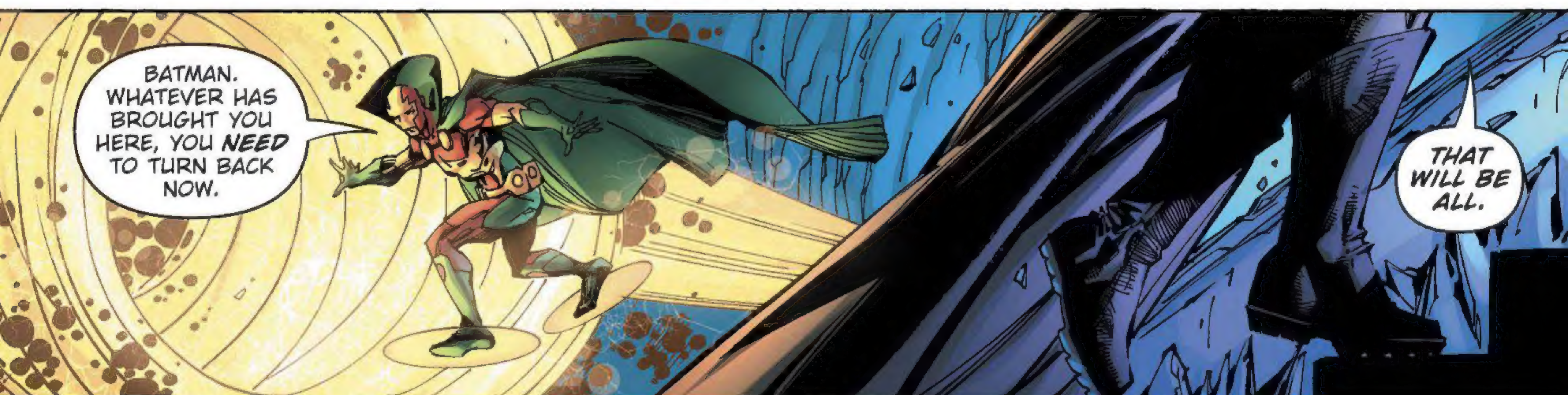
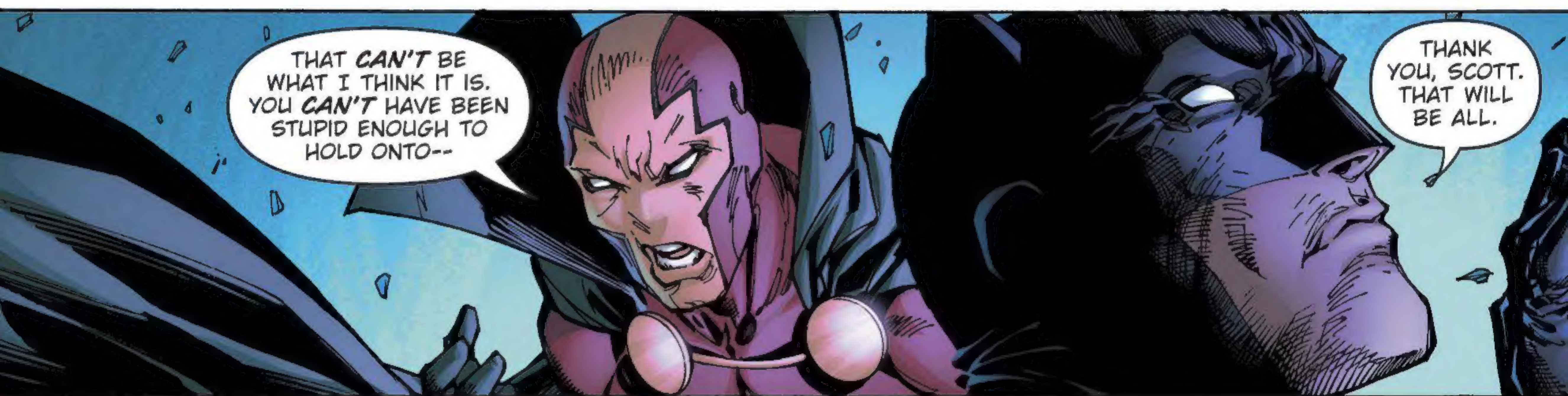
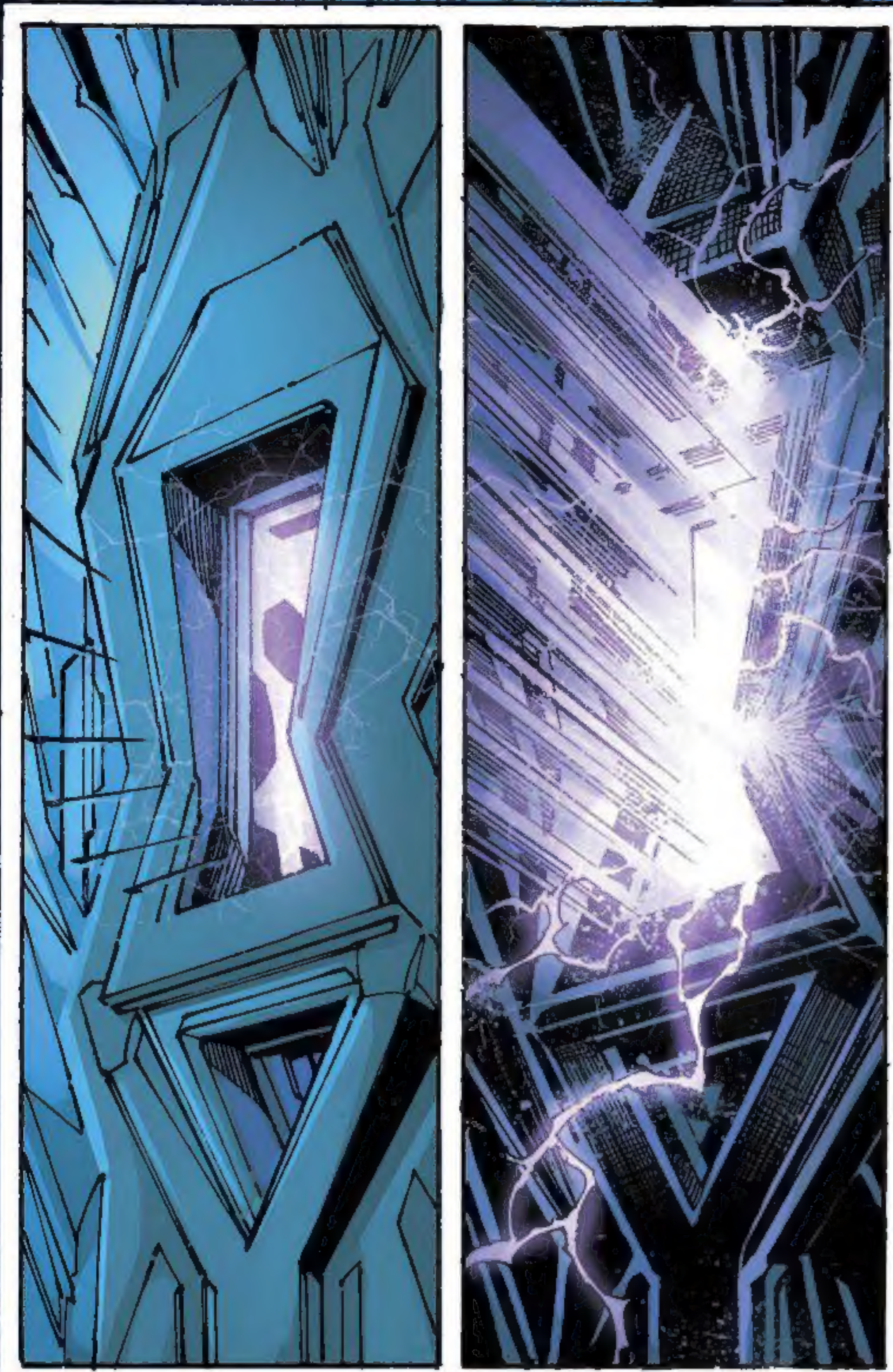
RIGHT?



CAN YOU OPEN IT?



THEY DON'T CALL ME **MISTER MIRACLE** FOR NOTHING.



*I wish I could go back
to that moment and
warn myself.*

*I write this journal
for anyone foolish
enough to pick up
my trail.*

*Whatever you do,
do not follow in
my footsteps.*

LIKE A
COMPASS...

COMPUTER. RUN
ALL VIBRATIONAL
DATA THROUGH THE
TOWER. WE SHOULD
BE ABLE TO TRACK
THE EXACT DIMEN-
SIONAL FREQUENCY
OF THE DARK
ENERGY.

RECEIVING
DATA...

IT'S
TIME,
THEN...

TIME TO
SEE WHAT'S IN
THE DARK ONCE
AND FOR ALL.

I beg of you,
whoever might be
reading this,
however many
generations might
have passed...

BATMAN,
WHAT THE HELL
HAVE YOU GOTTEN
YOURSELF INTO
THIS TIME...?

OH, I
CAN TELL YOU
THAT.

Do not follow
the mystery of
the metals.

THIS IS A
MYSTERY THAT
STRETCHES BACK TO
THE DAWN OF TIME.
IT'S BIGGER THAN
ALL OF US.

AND
IT SURE AS
HELL IS BIGGER
THAN YOU.

Some mysteries are best
unsolved. Some doors
best left unopened...

YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND. ALL
THAT WAS JUST A
CRUEL JOKE.

Because through them,
all you'll find is
horror.

YOU'RE JUST
ANOTHER COUPLE OF
PIECES IN BATMAN'S
PUZZLE.

JUST
LIKE ME.

HAHAHA
HAHAHAHA
HAHAHAHA
HAHAHA
HAHAHA

DARK KNIGHT THE FORGE

SCOTT SNYDER & JAMES TYNION IV writers
JIM LEE, ANDY KUBERT & JOHN ROMITA JR. pencils
SCOTT WILLIAMS, KLAUS JANSON & DANNY MIKI inks
ALEX SINCLAIR with JEREMIAH SKIPPER color STEVE WANDS letters
JIM LEE, SCOTT WILLIAMS & ALEX SINCLAIR cover
ANDY KUBERT & BRAD ANDERSON,
JOHN ROMITA JR., DANNY MIKI & ALEX SINCLAIR variant covers
DAVE WIELGOSZ asst. editor
REBECCA TAYLOR associate editor
MARK BOYLE editor
BATMAN CREATED BY BOB KANE WITH BILL FINGER.
SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER.
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.

JUST
LIKE ME.

DARK DARK

THE FORGE

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BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY.